

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Application of:

Petras et al.

Serial No.: 10/624,345

Filed: 07/22/03

For: System for Creating and
Maintaining a Database of
Information Utilizing User Opinions

Group Art Unit: 2167

Examiner: Ali, Mohammad

Att'y Docket No.: WC01520-2

Commissioner of Patents
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

RESPONSE TO REQUIREMENT FOR RESTRICTION

In response to a restriction requirement set forth in an office action mailed 01/04/2005, a provisional election with traverse is made by Applicants.

Applicants provisionally elect Group III (Claims 35-63).

Reconsideration is respectfully requested.

Applicants submit that Claims 64-85 are so similar to the provisionally elected claims 43-63 that examining claims 43-63 would *obviously* require searching the same classes and subclasses as for examination of claims 64-85. For example, if the steps of Claim 43 (also, one at a time 44 et seq.) and the steps of Claim 64 (also, one at a time 65 et seq.) are compared, even the language of the substance of the comparable steps is *identical*.

It is therefore respectfully requested that the Examiner combine claims 64-85 with the Group III claims provisionally elected by Applicants.

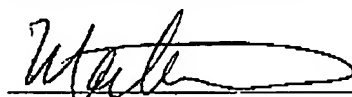
According to MPEP § 803, "if the search and examination of an entire application can be made without serious burden, the examiner **must** examine it on the merits, even though it includes claims to independent or distinct inventions." (emphasis added) In the present case,

Claims 43-63 and Claims 64-85, clearly comprise similar elements that will require searching in the same classes, and would not place undue burden on the examiner.

If there are any fees incurred by this response, please deduct them from our Deposit Account NO. 50-1887.

Respectfully submitted,

Date: February 4, 2005



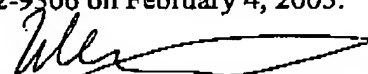
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CERTIFICATE OF FACSIMILE TRANSMISSION

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being transmitted, via facsimile, to the Patent and Trademark Office fax number (703)-872-9306 on February 4, 2005.

Date 2/4/05

Signature:



MARTIN L. STONEMAN, Atty. for Appl.